



Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Budget Session Meeting
Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 4:00 PM
Pender County Public Assembly Room
805 S. Walker Street, Burgaw, NC

PRESENT:

Vice Chair Brad George
Commissioner Jerry Groves
Chairman Randy Burton
Commissioner Brent Springer
Commissioner Jimmy T. Tate

ABSENT:

OTHER

PRESENT:

Colby Sawyer, County Manager
Meg Blue, Assistant County Manager
Katie Barber-Jones, Hartzog Law Group
Other Staff and Members of the Press and Public

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burton Called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

2. INVOCATION

Commissioner Groves led the Invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. SURF CITY BEACH RENOURISHMENT: BREUER

Kyle Breuer, Surf City Town Manager, explained the Surf City beach re-nourishment project. It was estimated to cost about 34 million and would be a 16-month-long straight dredge. Their request stayed the same.

5. TOPSAIL BEACH RENOURISHMENT: BURKE

Christine Burke, Topsail Beach Town Manager, introduced Chris Gibson, an engineer. Gibson explained Topsail Beach's re-nourishment project. Gibson stated they had actually turned back erosion. They were asking for \$180,000.

6. VETERAN'S SERVICES: LEACH

Michelle Leach, Veterans Director, stated that her supply request had gone down due to a grant that had been received. She was asking for one additional person but understood that the way forward was more important. Her budget was pretty much the same.

7. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION: BOONE

Tiffanee Boone, Interim Cooperative Extension Director, was asking for a little more this year due to a new position that was added last year and just filled.

8. BOARD OF ELECTIONS: JACKSON

Greg Jackson, Elections Director, was requesting new laptops and a new position.

9. PENDER SOIL & WATER: TURNER

Jim Burns, Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor, stated there were 855 miles of creek in Pender County, and they had cleaned out 77 miles. For every \$1 received from Pender County, over \$5 came back through services and funding. This year they were requesting \$149,965 up \$3,502 from last year.

10. PENDER ADULT SERVICES: ZELDIN

Andrew Zeldin, Director of Pender Adult Services, went over the numerous services they provide. This year's request is for \$422,455, an increase of \$38,405 from last year's request.

11. TOWN OF WALLACE AIRPORT: TAYLOR

Ben Jones of the Town of Wallace Airport gave an overview of the project, stating the needs, requests and future goals. Their request was the same as last year, \$50,000.

12. WARM: JONES

Andy Jones, Chief Executive Officer, of WARM NC, explained what they do. Their request last year was for \$25,000. This year, they are asking for \$35,000.

13. TOWN OF ATKINSON LIBRARY: STITH

Penny Stith, Town of Atkinson Commissioner, was requesting \$8,500 this year for salary due to an increase in library hours. This is an increase of \$3,500 from last year.

14. CAPE FEAR RIVER PROGRAM: ALPHIN

No one was present to talk about the Cape Fear River Program.

15. PENDER COUNTY CHRISTIAN SERVICES: TURNER

Sandy Harris spoke on behalf of Pender County Christian Services. Harris went over what they do and who they serve. This year's request is for \$10,000, which is double the amount of last year's request.

16. BREAK

17. PENDER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY: J. RIVENBARK

Holly Horton with the Pender County Historical Society went over the needs for the building. The request for this year was \$8,350, which is \$950 less than last year.

18. UNITED WAY OF THE CAPE FEAR: TAYLOR

Tommy Taylor spoke on behalf of the United Way. Taylor explained that they covered three counties. The request this year was for \$20,000, which is in line with previous years.

19. WILLARD OUTREACH: WEST

Clifton West with Willard Outreach, provided an overview of the services offered. They serve 30,000 people annually. They are requesting \$12,000, \$500 more than last year.

20. SHARE THE TABLE: ELLIS

Dawn Ellis, Executive Director, went over the services provided. This year, they were asking for \$15,000 compared to last year's \$5,000.

21. PENDER ARTS COUNCIL: MILLS

Edin Mills with the Pender Arts Council explained the council was more than just prints. Mills stated they have over 300 members. \$10,000 was being requested this year. The county has not contributed to this in the last few years.

22. PENDERLEA HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: R. RIVENBARK

Ricky Rivenbark with the Penderlea Homestead Museum noted they have over 150 members. This year's focus was a new roof for the building. The request was for \$9,850, the board has not contributed to this fund in the last few years.

23. CLOSING REMARKS

Commissioner Springer made a motion to adjourn at 6:26pm.
Vice Chairman George seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]